



THOMAS J. VILSACK GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATE CAPITOL DES MOINES, IOWA 50319 515 261-5211 FAX 515-261-6611 SALLY J. PEDERSON LT. GOVERNOR



Dear Iowans:

The trees and forests of Iowa provide many social and environmental benefits to each of us. These renewable resources clean our air and water, conserve our soil, provide habitat for wildlife, enhance recreational opportunities and create employment for thousands of Iowans.

When Iowa opened for settlement, in the 1830's, the land was covered with tall grass prairies and forests. The original land surveys, conducted in 1846, estimated 6.7 million acres of forests and 29 million acres of prairies. By 1900, nearly one-half of Iowa's forest land and 90 percent of the prairie land had been cleared for various agricultural uses. These land use trends continued to reduce the state's forest acres down to 1.5 million by 1974.

The 1999 annualized forest inventory, completed by the USDA Forest Service on only 20 percent of the total fixed plots, estimates 2 million acres of Iowa is covered by forests. This is about 6 percent of the state's total area. The increase, since 1974, is due to shifts in modern agriculture and increased forest stewardship by thousands of private landowners and government officials.

I am pleased to present IOWA'S FOREST RESOURCES PLAN OF ACTION 2001-2006 as a guide to increased awareness and use of these renewable resources. Please consider the suggested goals and actions and get involved with those in your area of interest.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack

Governor

FOREWORD

Iowa's forests and prairies are valuable resources and offer remarkable benefits that may not be familiar to many of our citizens. These renewable resources provide the basis for biological diversity, natural communities, wildlife habitats, scenic landscapes and recreational opportunities. The forests and prairies represent an important economic base for tourism and support employment for a diverse forest products industry.

Because of Iowa's fertile soils, much of the land has been transformed to accommodate row-crop agriculture which yields an essential social benefit - the production of food. The environmental costs of this land use have been substantial. Protection of existing forest and prairie resources and the replanting of converted native plant communities are important components in our efforts to improve Iowa's environmental well-being.

Healthy sustainable forest and prairie systems enhance Iowa's quality of life. As stewards, it is our responsibility to ensure a natural resource legacy for future generations. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources Division of Forests and Prairies has developed this 2001-2006 action plan as a guideline to enhance stewardship. Goals and actions for the forest and prairie resources have been identified. Their successful implementation will depend upon active partnerships with individuals, organizations and other government agencies.

We will need your participation and support to help meet the future demands that will challenge Iowa's forests and prairies resources.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Vonk

Director

Michael Brandrup State Forester



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	5
The Benefits Of Iowa's Forests & Prairies	
Iowa's Forest Resources	8
Forests & Prairies Division Accomplishments Since 1996	9-13
Goals And Actions For Iowa's Forests & Prairies	14-15
Public Support For Iowa's Forests & Prairies	16
References	17



Photo Credit to Natural Resource Conservation Service

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Division of Forests & Prairies, of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, has developed objectives, strategies, and actions for sustaining, enhancing and expanding the many benefits that Iowans receive from our forests and prairies over the next five years. Land use decisions by private landowners will continue to shape the future of our forests and prairies. Ninety-two percent of Iowa's forests are privately owned. Farmers own 64 percent, non-farming individuals 22 percent, industry 6 percent and public ownership 8 percent. Surveys indicate approximately 55,400 private landowners (less than 2 percent of Iowa's population) own an average of 40 acres of forest land. Sixty-six percent of these landowners are 55 years and older, while nearly 20 percent of these landowners are over 74 years old. These landowner demographics indicate a major shift in ownership during the next ten years, from farmers to middle-aged absentee nonfarmers who could have different ownership objectives for their forest lands.

THE BENEFITS OF IOWA'S FORESTS & PRAIRIES

Most of us are aware that trees, forests and prairies purify our air & water, reduce soil erosion, provide wildlife habitat, produce wood products, and enhance outdoor recreation. Iowa's forest and prairies provide multiple benefits to all of us, but many of us take these for granted. Consider the following environmental and economic benefits from our forests and prairies resources.



ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Water quality in streams, lakes, ponds and wells is vital to a healthy environment. Watersheds and stream buffer zones that include trees, shrubs and prairie

Trees, shrubs and prairie grasses ...

grasses can yield clean water while slowing erosion and groundwater contamination. One of the major sources of water pollution is sedimentation. Excessive sediments are continuously generated from agricultural croplands and urban development.

... clean the water

Riparian plantings designed with various tree, shrub and prairie species, will reduce sedimentation. They also filter and store surplus amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizer runoff and animal wastes, cleaning the water before it enters the water corridor and drinking water supplies.

... improve air quality

Air quality is improved by trees and prairies through the production of oxygen and the absorption of carbon dioxide and airborne particulates. These particulates can include dust and ash. The capture and storage of toxic carbon (carbon sequestration) from automobile exhaust and power plant emissions, helps to mitigate the carbon dioxide released from the burning of fossil fuels and its effect on global warming.

There are more than 500 species of plants and 300 species of wildlife that have a link to Iowa's forests and prairies. This includes more than 90 of the state's plant and animal species listed as threatened or endangered.







Iowa's Forests & Prairies Resources

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

The forests and prairies of Iowa provide economic value through outdoor recreation opportunities. In 1999, a total of 14.7 million visitors spent time in Iowa's 84 state parks, state forests and recreation areas.

... fall leaf color generates an estimated \$5.9 million annually...

The recreation activities included camping, hiking, and enjoying nature. In northeast Iowa, the viewing of fall leaf color generates an estimated \$5.9 million annually to local communities.

Forests and prairies provide habitat for many different species of birds and animals. The clean water from forested watersheds enhances fish habitat in Iowa's streams and lakes. In 1999, a total of 768,000 Iowans and 61,298 nonresidents purchased hunting and fishing licenses. These licenses, plus the expense of supplies and lodging, generated more than \$1.1 billion to Iowa's economy.

Iowa's 300 wood-using businesses employ

Iowa's private woodland owners received over \$14 million in 1999 from the sale of their trees and logs.

more than 7,000 people and generate \$1 billion in economic value throughout the state. Iowa's private woodland owners received over \$14 million in 1999 from the sale of their trees and logs. There are approximately 200 Christmas tree growers in Iowa who sell over 50,000 trees each year with a value of more than \$500,000.

Many Iowa communitites are utilizing urban

Trees in community settings can increase individual property values from 5 to 15% . . .

reforestation to enhance community appearances and attract or retain businesses. Trees in community settings can increase individual property values from 5 to 15% as compared to properties without trees.



Iowa's Forests & Prairies Resources



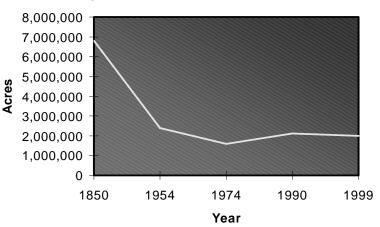
IOWA'S FOREST RESOURCES

The original land survey of Iowa, made between 1832 and 1859, documented 6.7 million acres of forest land in the state at that time. Due to clearing for farming and other settlement, forestland declined to 2.4 million acres by the

Roughly 2% of Iowa's population own 92% of Iowa's forest acres.

time of the first modern inventory in 1954. Further declines in the following 20 years reduced Iowa's forestland to 1.5 million acres in 1974.

Changes in Forest Acres in Iowa Since 1850



Forest acres began to rebound during the 1980's reaching 2.1 million acres by 1990, according to USDA Forest Service Inventories. The most recent annualized Forest Inventory and Analysis was conducted in 1999 and sampled 20 percent of the total fixed, permanent plots throughout Iowa. Preliminary data show a decline of 5 percent (approximately 100,000 acres) in the number of forested acres since 1990. Due to the limited number of field plots measured, future estimates using this 1999 data are subject to change when the remaining annual inventories are complete in 2004. However,

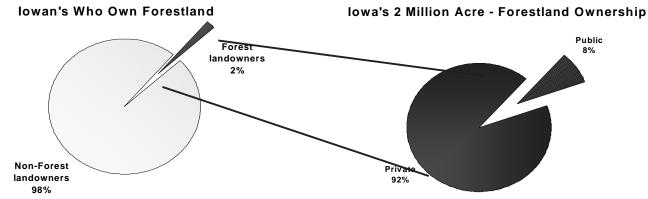
Private citizens are literally the "keepers" of Iowa's forest heritage.

the preliminary data indicates that Iowa's forests are again at risk to be converted to nonforest uses.

Preliminary data also indicates that the composition of Iowa's forestland during the 1990s has remained dominantly in hardwood species. Oak-Hickory forest types (45%), Maple-Basswood (25%) Silver Maple-Ash-Cottonwood (25%) with miscellaneous hardwoods and conifers constituting the remainder.

Roughly 2% of Iowa's population own 92% of Iowa's forest acres. This private ownership consists of farmers, private individuals and industry. The remaining acres are in a variety of public ownership that includes State Forests, State Parks and Wildlife Areas, county areas, and federal lands. The importance of privately owned forestland to Iowa's environment and quality of life can not be overstated. Private citizens are literally the "keepers" of Iowa's forest heritage.

The trees in Iowa's cities and towns make up another important forest resource in our state - the urban forest. The major tree species represented in Iowa's urban forest includes green ash, silver maple, norway maple and sugar maple. In many communities, the necessary tree maintenance and new tree plantings do not keep pace with tree removal and urban expansion, so the quality and quantity of the urban forests continues to decline.



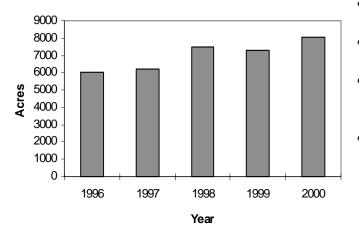
FORESTS & PRAIRIES DIVISION ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE 1996

There are sixteen field service foresters for Iowa's 99 counties, and they provide professional forestry assistance to the forest and prairie landowners in the state. Some of the services include the administration of state and federal cost-share programs, forest management planning, reforestation, timber stand improvement, forest health assistance and marketing of timber products.

The "Forestry Enhancement" fund was approved by the legislature in 1999 and generated five new forester positions to the division. The funding for these positions is generated from additional fees on the sale of conifer, hardwood, and shrub seedlings from the state forest nursery. This program has helped to alleviate some of the tremendous backlog of forestry service requests from Iowa's forest and prairie landowners. Also in 1999, there was a name change from the Division of Forests and Forestry to the Division of Forests and Prairies. A contract employee provided overall coordination in terms of building partnerships with the Iowa Prairie Network, private prairie-seed dealers, and training for field service foresters. This program added prairie landowner assistance to the duties of the field foresters, and included prairie remnant identification plus limited technical assistance in management and reconstruction activities.

There were two forestry advisory groups organized in northeast and southeast Iowa. The volunteer advisory members included private landowners, legislators, consultant foresters and Iowa DNR foresters. The advisory groups had several objectives to promote and enhance management of Iowa's forest resources.

Acres of Trees Planted in Iowa



Forest Landowner Assistance (1996-2000)

- Assisted more than 6,500 private woodland owners.
- Wrote 6,375 management plans which covered more than 201,597 acres.
- Oversaw implementation of more than 42,000 acres of new tree plantings and 23,691 acres of timber stand improvement.
- Provided forest management assistance, through timber sales marketing, on more than 15,791 acres; generating more than 23.5 million board feet and returning \$8.5 million back to Iowa's forest landowners.

The efforts of the field service foresters have promoted landowner stewardship concepts through consideration of sustainability, watershed protection, wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities. The Division of Forests and Prairies promotes private landowner recognition programs through the Iowa Woodland Owner of the Year award and "Tree Farm" designations. There are currently 1,100 certified Tree Farms in Iowa that include some type of sustainable forest management on more than 83,000 acres.



Photo Credit to Natu Conservation Service



Rural Development Through Forestry (RDTF)

Iowa's Rural Development Through Forestry (RDTF) program has involved working partnerships with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the fifteen Resource Conservation & Development Areas (RC&D's) throughout Iowa. The ten year program has been funded from the USDA Forest Service to implement rural economic development projects through the wise use of Iowa's forest resources. Iowa has received \$5.9 million which has been matched with \$8.6 million to fund more than 150 projects.

Rural Development Through Forestry (RDTF) projects have resulted in 496 new and retained jobs and over \$25 million in annual economic activity.

RDTF projects have included the promotion of wood products and the craftsmanship of Iowa's woodworkers, utilization of pine thinnings for log cabins, recycling of used pallets and crating, tourism, promoting the Scenic Byway in the Loess Hills, marketing of small diameter logs and wood residues from manufacturing. Special forest products such as tree pollen, shiitake mushrooms, hazelnuts, tree seeds and agroforestry have also been funded. These projects have resulted in 496 new and retained jobs and over \$25 million in annual economic activity.

The Iowa Grape Advisory Council promotes the growing of grapes and wine-making through private entrepreneurs, Iowa State University Horticulture and several public agencies. This project could have statewide application with emphasis on:

- -- Agricultural diversity from traditional row crops.
- -- Encouragement of small family farms and rural development.
- -- Grape/wine production is a vertically integrated value-added process.
- -- The land use for growing grapes fits well in a diverse landscape of crops, pastures and forests.
- -- Tourism in Iowa can be enhanced through visits to vineyards and wineries.

Public Forests

The 42,000 acre state forest system consists of four major forests and six smaller areas managed by the Division of Forests and Prairies. The forests are managed for sustainability, diversity and health while promoting multiple use opportunities. Production of wood fiber demonstrates that forests are economically important, while providing for watershed protection, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. The four major state forests include Loess Hills (9,823 acres), Shimek (8,757 acres), Stephens (13,918 acres) and Yellow River (8,708 acres). There was about 4,434 total acres added to the forest system between 1996 and 2000.

The Division provides forest management assistance to state parks, recreational and wildlife areas. Ecosystem management principles are used to sustain ecological values and forest health.

Roadside Vegetation Management

The Division of Forests and Prairies, in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Transportation, started a tree and shrub planting program along highway right-of-ways in 1990. One of the major program goals was to create vegetation vistas to the landscape for aesthetic and environmental enhancement, and to reduce snow accumulation. The Department of Transportation designated the roadside beautification funds, while the Division of Forests and Prairies designed and supervised some of the planting sites. Private contractors have planted more than 840,000 trees and shrubs in the past ten years. In year 2000, (as appropriately associated with our name change), the program was expanded to include the planting of prairie grasses and wildflowers. Private contractors planted 442 acres along Iowa's state highways.

Iowa RC&D as of 2001



Reforestation

The Division operates the State Forest Nursery in Ames and a satellite nursery in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Corrections in Montrose. The State Nursery annually produces three to five million bareroot hardwood trees, shrubs, and conifer seedlings. The seedlings are sold at production costs to private and public landowners in Iowa. The Division cooperates with the Department of Corrections to provide needed work experience for inmates and to keep production costs down. Hardwood tree and shrub seeds are purchased from forestry vendors and private citizens. There is a priority to produce those tree and shrub species that are native to Iowa.

Conservation Education for Youth and Adults

The Division of Forests and Prairies provided leadership for several different educational programs. Funding and assistance was also provided for cooperative educational efforts with Iowa State University Extension in Forestry and Horticulture. This involved 25 annual forestry field days and tree care workshops throughout Iowa.

The Master Woodland Managers program and the Community Tree Stewards program were offered to those individuals interested in more intensive forestry related training.

1989 to 2000

Master Woodland Managers and Community Tree Stewards have returned 30,700 hours of forestryrelated community service.

The Community Tree Stewards program is oriented to urban residents and includes 24 hours of classroom training. Since 1991, this program has been delivered 16 times and involved 411 participants and has provided about 10,700 hours of services to their local community tree programs.



The Master Woodland Managers program, predominantly offered to land managers, includes 32 hours of intensive forestry training in exchange for a minimum of 32 hours of community service work. Since 1989, the program has been delivered 27 times and involved over 800 participants. This group has provided over 20,000 hours of forest related community services.

Since 1996, there have been 29,915 teacher packets delivered and more than 357,000 trees planted on school sites.

The Division of Forests and Prairies also administers the Trees For Kids and Trees For Teens programs. The programs offer a combination of tree and forestry education, plus tree planting projects to Iowa's elementary and secondary school teachers and students. This is a unique public/private partnership, which serves a broad spectrum of interest groups. In 2000, there were 9,250 teacher packets delivered and 90,393 trees were planted on school sites.

Trees For Kids/Teens Participation Figures

	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996
# of Teachers	9,250	7,025	4,800	4,650	4,190
Value of Trees Planted	\$2,839,000	\$2,823,800	\$2,764,800	\$1,305,000	\$956,900
# of Trees	90,393	60,800	75,500	65,500	65,500

Iowa's Forests & Prairies Resources

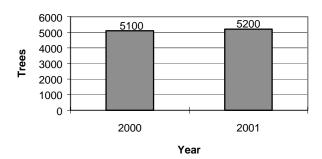
Urban Forests

Iowa has over 980 communities, each with the valuable asset of street, park and residential trees.

The Iowa Urban and Community Forestry Council (IUCFC) was established in 1990 to assist in developing policy and management implementation efforts.

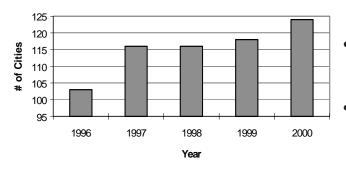
The IUCFC is made up of individuals representing the Division of Forests and Prairies, USDA Forest Service, Iowa State University Extension, Trees Forever, municipal foresters, private

Million More by 2004 Trees Planted



nurseries and local volunteer organizations. The IUCFC provides technical assistance, educational and volunteer services to Iowa communities. From 1996 through 2000, approximately 350 Iowa communities received annual technical assistance ranging from recommendations dealing with individual tree concerns to surveys of community tree resources. The Division of Forests and Prairies provided approximately 25 detailed community tree resource assessments annually to community leaders to guide their future management efforts. The Million More by 2004 state tree planting grant, initiated in 2000, has planted nearly 10,000 landscape sized trees in over 200 communities.

Iowa's Tree City USA Awards



- The Division of Forests and Prairies provided funding to Iowa State University Extension Forestry and Horticulture to provide annual educational assistance in urban areas.
- Trees Forever received funding to provide volunteer coordination assistance to over 350 volunteer tree groups in Iowa.
- "Community Trees", an urban forestry newsletter, is produced jointly with Trees Forever and distributed semi-annually to over 12,000 community tree leaders across the state.

An important measure of urban forestry accomplishments in Iowa has been the increasing number of certified Tree City USAs. Tree City USA is a national designation from the National Arbor Day Foundation, USDA Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters recognizing a community's commitment to increased tree management.

From 1996 through 2000, the number of Iowa communities qualifying for Tree City USA grew from 103 to 123.

Forest & Wildlands Protection

In cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, Forest Health and Fire Prevention are the major forest protection

programs of the Division of Forests and Prairies.



The Forest Health program provides management information based on annual aerial surveys (about 250,000 acres) throughout Iowa. These surveys monitor insect,

Major threats to Iowa's forest resources include: oak wilt, ash decline, bark beetle, and the gypsy moth.

disease and environmental stress on the forest

resource. The major threats to Iowa's forest resources include diseases of oak wilt, ash decline, bark beetle (attacks stressed scotch pine), and the gypsy moth. The monitoring program involves cooperative



agreements with Iowa State University Extension and the State Entomologist of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

The Fire Prevention program involves cooperative agreements with federal agencies and the military, to acquire access to federal vehicles and

equipment suitable for wildland fire protection. The equipment is loaned to about 850 rural fire districts, throughout Iowa, to assist them in wildland fire control. The current inventory value of the equipment is about \$10 million. The Fire Prevention program also provides grant dollars, to communities smaller than 10,000, to outfit their wildland fire crews and vehicles. In cooperation with several public agencies and local

partners, the Division also provides prescribed fire training opportunities to landowners, fire fighters and land managers. There are more than 300 wildfires each year in Iowa that damage an average of 30,000 acres.



Prairie Management

When Iowa became a state in 1846, about twenty-nine million acres were native tall grass prairie. Today, less than 1% of that original prairie remains as scattered remnants in public and private ownership. Since 2000, the newly organized Division of Forests and Prairies have focused efforts on:

- (1) identifying and promoting management of existing prairie remnants.
- (2) encouraging prairie reconstruction by using local ecotype seed sources, and
- (3) increasing partnerships to expand prairie management for biodiversity and water quality.



13

FUTURE CHALLENGES TO IOWA'S FORESTS & PRAIRIES RESOURCES

The Division of Forests & Prairies initiated the process of gathering background information, from several Iowa Forestry Roundtable meetings, to identify concerns and future challenges for our resources. The top priority issues, determined by a voting process, are as follows:

TOP PRIORITY ISSUES FOR IOWA'S RESOURCES

Need to expand education and awareness of forests & prairies resources

Develop economic opportunities and enhance resource management

Enhance the importance of biodiversity in forests & prairies resources

Work on a collaborative basis to promote stewardship of the resources

Conduct detailed inventories and assessments of our forests & prairies

Address the trends of resource fragmentation and land use demographics

Increase awareness and management of Iowa's urban forests

Expand Education & Awareness of Forests & Prairies Resources

Since 92% of Iowa's forests & prairies are privately owned, the future challenge to educate our citizens about the stewardship and management of these resources is extremely critical. There are more than 50,000 forest and prairie landowners and an increasing urban population, which accentuates the education challenges with a very limited number of forestry staff. There is a major void in understanding many of the values such as aesthetics, economics, biological diversity, long term health, and regeneration of our forests & prairies resources. Providing Iowa's youth with educational materials and outdoor natural resources experiences will increase their awareness to make better land use decisions in the future.

Develop Economic Opportunities and Enhance Resource Management

Many private landowners need income from their forests & prairies resources, and the economic incentives are inadequate to promote and reward good resource management. The amount of available technical assistance, to these private land-owners, is very limited which often results in land use conversion. Society should increase its financial support to cost sharing programs, resource management assistance, and incentives to promote stewardship of the forests & prairies resources.

Enhance the Importance of Biodiversity in Forests & Prairies Resources

A large percentage of Iowa's forests & prairies need restoration of ecological diversity. Inadequate resource management (or no management) results in many factors that will impact the current and future health and sustainability of plants, wildlife, water quality and soils. There is a serious need to enhance the education and awareness of restoring and maintaining the diversity of natural resource communities now and for Iowa's future generations.

Work on a Collaborative Basis to Promote Stewardship of the Resources

The Division of Forests & Prairies has developed many new partnerships with all levels of government agencies, private organizations and individuals to implement resource management programs and utilize matching federal funding. Surveys indicate that Iowans place a high value on many of these program services. It is very important that all partnerships continue to work on a collaborative basis to promote sound management of our resources.

Conduct Detailed Inventories and Assessments of Our Forests & Prairies

The large percentage of private ownership of Iowa's forests & prairies resources, increases the challenge to complete accurate inventory data. The standard forest resource inventories, conducted annually on twenty percent of the fixed plots, need to be expanded to address the biodiversity of the resources. The detailed assessments of the resources and the analyses of landowners' objectives, will have an impact on the current and future sustainability of the forests & prairies resources.

Address the Trends of Resource Fragmentation and Land Use Demographics

The landscape of Iowa was changed dramatically by 1900. Nearly one-half of the forest resource and 90 percent of the prairie resource had been cleared for various agricultural uses. These land use trends, plus urban sprawl, has resulted in fragmentation of our forests & prairies resources. This makes management of the resources more difficult and many times less likely for any improvements in natural biodiversity. The future challenge of landowner demographics, for the forests & prairies ownership, indicates that eighty-six percent are 55 years and older. There could be a major shift in ownership, during the next ten years, from farmers to middle-aged absentee nonfarmers who could have different ownership objectives for their resources.

Increase Awareness and Management of Iowa's Urban Forests

Iowa's urban forest is under-utilized and generally not recognized for its importance as a resource. Adequate funding is needed, from government and private sources, to sustain and expand local urban forestry efforts. Public and private partnerships must continue to provide increased technical urban forestry assistance to local governments. Community reforestation and tree maintenance programs need to be maintained and expanded throughout the state.

Iowa's Forests & Praires Resources

GOALS AND ACTIONS FOR IOWA'S FORESTS

The Division of Forests & Prairies has utilized the strategic planning process to develop a mission and vision statement as well as a motto.

Mission Statement: Building a better Iowa by helping people to grow and care for their trees, forests and prairies.

Vision Statement: Iowans in harmony with their land, embracing forests and prairies as critical to their quality of life.

Motto: Legacy happens - What's yours?

The objectives, strategies, and actions to address these issues are:

Awareness--By 2004, twenty-five percent of Iowans will acknowledge the value of forests, trees and prairies, and will act more responsibly towards them.

Better and more forests and prairies--Act as the catalyst to help people improve and increase the number of forests, trees and prairies as functioning components of Iowa's landscape.

A systemic organization--By 2002, the Division of Forests & Prairies will have knowledge of and be evaluated as a systemic organization.

Objectives, Strategies, and Actions

Awareness:

Strategy: We will implement a public relations and marketing program to sell the value of forests, trees and prairies and how to act responsibly towards them.

- (1) Implement a comprehensive conservation education program.
- (2) Hire/assign specialists to coordinate and evaluate awareness efforts.
- (3) Develop a recognition program to reward those who excel in demonstrating responsible actions towards forests, trees and prairies.

Strategy: We will assist in the development of forest, trees and prairies advocacy groups.

- (1) Form a State Forester Advisory Board.
- (2) Cultivate corporate partnerships.
- (3) Cultivate public/professional partnerships.
- (4) Develop citizen volunteer opportunities to support Iowa's forests, trees and prairies.

Strategy: We will promote the value of forests, trees and prairies on state-owned property and demonstrate to the public how to act responsibly towards them.

- (1) Implement management demonstration areas.
- (2) Brochures and signing.
- (3) Video and media exposure.

Better and More Forests, Trees, and Prairies:

Strategy: Develop a "Legacy" program for public and private landowners.

- (1) Improve management efforts on state lands to exhibit a "healthy" landscape.
- (2) Intensify efforts to increase management of private, state, community resources.
- (3) Increase state-owned forest and prairie acquisition of priority and high-risk lands.
- (4) Improve and expand our state nursery operation to become the recognized primary source of high quality native planting stock.
- (5) Implement a resource protection program to protect forests, trees and prairies from fire, grazing damage, soil erosion and insect and disease problems.

Strategy: Form and implement a fully funded and staffed Prairies Program.

- (1) Partner with county conservation boards to identify prairie remnants and to educate landowners of their importance.
- (2) Assist landowners with prairie protection, restoration and establishment.

Strategy: Raise additional funding annually from nontraditional sources to help fund program expansion necessary to implement strategies 1 & 2.

- (1) Identify potential corporate and noncorporate sponsors.
- (2) Identify additional government funding opportunities through grants and aides.
- (3) Explore funding opportunities from partnership agencies.

Systemic Organization:

Strategy: Organize the Division of Forests & Prairies to fulfill our mission.

- (1) Investigate and observe systemic organizations (system thinking)
- (2) Implement an awareness marketing plan of action using the "team approach."
- (3) Improve our internal communication system.

Strategy: Develop an evaluation process to measure team success.

(1) Implement the TQM (Total Quality Management) approach to solve productivity, quality, and internal organizational problems through team evaluation procedures.

Strategy: Develop an improved system of employee training.

- (1) Continuing education for employees.
- (2) Mentor program or team training for new employees.

PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR IOWA'S FORESTS AND PRAIRIES

- X Iowa's forests and prairies have a long history of supporting the peoples' needs, yet most are unaware of their values.
- People are an integral component of the forest and prairie ecosystems of Iowa. Most actions and activities that humans perform will have an impact on these natural ecosystems.
- The Division of Forests & Prairies needs public support to maintain our forests and prairies for the present and the future. Please seek facts and learn about your forest and prairie resources, encourage others, become involved and make your best decisions.
- Whether it involves a state forest, your grandfather's 40 acre woodlot, a prairie remnant or the tree in your backyard, each of us can make a difference. If we work together, Iowa's forests and prairies will continue to grow in size and provide multiple benefits back to each of us.



REFERENCES

Boykin, Joseph. (2001) Iowa's Forest Resources (draft), 1999 by USDA Forest Service.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. (1999) Fish & Wildlife Division.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. (1999) Parks, Recreation & Preserves Division.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. (1996-2000) Forests & Prairies Division.

Krambeer, Curt. (1994). Survey Of Iowa Wood Businesses by the Iowa Wood Industries Association.

Resource Conservation & Development Area for Northeast Iowa. (1995) Economic Impact of Fall Foliage in Northeastern Iowa.

Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, federal regulations prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to Director, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa, 50319-0034 or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Washington D.C., 20240

For those who cannot read the size of print in this publication, a larger-sized version of the text is available by calling the DNR at (515) 281-5145 (TDD number (515) 242-5967) or writing the DNR at Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa, 50319-0034.





Iowa's Forests & Prairies Resources

